

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION
MINUTES OF MARCH 19, 2009
MEADOWEDGE, WEST SAYVILLE, N.Y.**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Miles Borden	Trustee, Town of Smithtown
Gil Cardillo	Chairman, Town of Riverhead
Ray Corwin	Member at Large
Gregory Dawson	Vice Chairman, Town of Islip
Amy Engel	Member of the Board
Scott Hilary	Trustee, Town of Southold
Bill Shilling	Member of the Board
Edward Walters	Trustee, Southampton
Richard F. White, Jr.	Trustee, Town of East Hampton

ABSENT

Alexander McKay	Trustee, Town of Huntington
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PARKS DEPARTMENT

John W. Pavacic	Commissioner
Tracey Bellone	Deputy Commissioner
Nick Gibbons	Principal Environmental Analyst
Terry Maccarrone	Coordinator of Community Based Programs
Karen Nicholson	Superintendent
Ann Rothenberg	Assistant to the Commissioner

GUESTS

Lauretta Fischer	Principal Environmental Analyst, Planning Department
Janet Longo	Deputy Director, Real Property Acquisitions and Management
Roger Podd	County Attorney's Office
Tom Ryan	Office of Legislature Vilorio-Fisher
Legislator Vilorio-Fisher	Legislature

Chairman Cardillo called the meeting to order.

PUBLIC PORTION

Brian Brady spoke about public safety at Bergen Point Golf Course. He owns a home parallel to the 9th hole which poses a danger to his home and the surrounding homes. Although the County has installed some netting, the height is inadequate. The netting stops some balls from leaving the course, but the most damaging shots soar right over the net and cause harm to his property. Mr. Brady has personally incurred several thousand dollars in property damage. On the worst day, 9 balls hit his house and property. This damage is caused by tee shots leaving the tee box. Perhaps the tee box can be moved 100 yards on the 9th hole to make it a par 3.

Deputy Commissioner Bellone responded that the area where the homes are located was previously a wooded area. The land was cleared by a developer to build homes on the property. The County made a

good faith effort and installed the netting at a cost of \$35,000 to the County. The netting is 30 ft. high and 230 ft. wide. The netting seems to have helped a majority of the neighbors. At this point the County is not inclined to do anything further. Moving the tee box would change the rating of the golf course.

Thomas Jones, Suffolk Committee for Camping, discussed the issue of dogs in Suffolk County Parks and campgrounds. They can be menacing, a nuisance and aggressive. About a year ago while walking through a park with his wife and another couple, who had a dog, they were attacked by 2 pit bulls. The pit bulls were after their friend's dog. They called Park Police who told the campers they had to leave. Parks personnel should be more diligent in asking campers about dogs coming into campgrounds, although their response may not always be accurate. Perhaps campers could register their dogs and be issued a tag which must hang off their collar and be visible at all times. If the dog presents a problem, the problem can be addressed and perhaps the tag taken away.

Commissioner Pavacic responded that under the new Parks fee schedule, the Parks Department is allowed to institute dog fees. Our staff is looking at Brookhaven's program where they issue visible orange tags for dogs that use the dog park in Middle Island. It allows the town to control, to a certain degree, difficult dogs and difficult owners. The town can revoke the permit if the dog is misbehaving and it also allows a park attendant or park official to see at a glance if the dog should be using the facility.

Commissioner Pavacic said the Parks Department is also looking at natural borders dog parks.

Chairman Cardillo discussed two (2) letters he received from William Milanese, Jr. regarding the continuing, daily problem with unleashed dogs at Coindre Hall. In his latest letter, Mr. Milanese suggested weekend enforcement, when the problem is at its worst, would help along with more aggressive signage.

Legislator Vilorio-Fisher reported that Legislator's D'Amaro's bill regarding selling naming rights in parks passed in Committee and needs the approval of the Trustees. The legislative intent is to raise revenue by selling naming rights to corporate sponsors. The parks themselves would not have corporate names, but sections or activities within the park could be named. The naming rights will need the approval of the Citing Committee and the Parks Trustees. Legislator Vilorio-Fisher also mentioned the "John Fritz Memorial Fishing Pier" was passed out of Committee yesterday.

On the same issue, Trustee Engel reported "Requests for Expressions of Interest" were sent out and responses are due back by April 2nd.

Legislator Vilorio-Fisher reported she took her dog to the Blydenburgh Dog Run this weekend and they had a great time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 19, 2009

A motion to accept the minutes was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee Walters. The minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 9-0-0.

PRESENTATION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND REAL ESTATE

Lauretta Fischer proposed two acquisitions. A colored site map was distributed describing each property.

Mastic/Shirley Conservation Area – Scarpa Property, Mastic Beach, Town of Brookhaven

The acquisition of .14 acres in Mastic Beach, Town of Brookhaven. This will be acquired under the Suffolk County Open Space Preservation Program.

A motion to approve this acquisition was made by Trustee Corwin and seconded by Trustee Borden. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 9-0-0.

Robert C. Murphy County Park Addition – Long Island Realty Company Property

The acquisition of 14.4 acres in Manorville, Town of Brookhaven. This will be acquired under The Old Suffolk County Drinking Water Protection Program 12-5(E)(1)(b).

A motion to approve this acquisition was made by Trustee Corwin and seconded by Trustee Dawson. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 9-0-0.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Smith Point Master Plan Update

Commissioner Pavacic distributed copies of the Smith Point Master Plan Update to the Trustees and asked that the Trustees review, comment and approve this plan at the next Trustees meeting. Some elements of this plan are the continued renovation of the main pavilion; a stand alone, heated maintenance facility; some proposals to alleviate some of the traffic congestion by adding an additional (third) ingress lane; additional lanes for stacking at the toll booths; a new playground; miniature golf; formalizing the existing picnic and concert area; expand the electrical capacity at the campgrounds; add boat slips, kayak areas and additional parking at the marina in addition to other updates included the Master Plan.

Long Island Maritime Museum

The Commissioner reported elections for new officers will be held at the end of the month.

Fee Increases

The Commissioner reported fee increases went into effect on March 3rd and Parks staff was obligated to put those increases in place. Some people have expressed their dismay and we're doing our best to address those particular issues.

Earth Day

Earth Day is scheduled for Sunday, April 19th at Indian Island County Park and the Commissioner invited the Trustees to join the celebration.

Parks Foundation

The Commissioner reported an internal meeting with the County is scheduled for next week to move the Parks Foundation agreement forward.

Indian Island Golf Course

The Commissioner reported CEQ approved the SEQRA review for green #5 which has been experiencing some erosion. Per protocol, the Town of Riverhead has been notified.

Fiscal Situation

The Commissioner reported on the difficult financial situation the County is facing. The County has to look at some strong measures to combat this difficulty. One of the things mentioned is the prospects of layoffs. This year the Parks Department operating budget had to be cut a number of times. We may need to take some stronger measures, internally, throughout the year. We scoured the federal economic stimulus package for any federal assistance. Amy Engel is the lead on that team. Energy conservation measures for our Parks could be significant. The economic package also includes provisions for law enforcement.

Amy Engel reported that Parks Police funding would come through the federal stimulus under their "cops" program. The County is trying to do a unified "ask" which would include Parks Police, County

Police and Sheriffs. We're coordinating this with Senator Gillibrand's office. The energy conservation measures are being coordinated through the Environment and Energy Department. We are waiting on other energy clarification from EPA, DEC and EFC - they have not released all their guidelines yet. Any questions related to the stimulus package should be directed to Amy Engel or Pat Mitchell.

Smith Point and Cupsogue Beach Nourishment

Commissioner Pavacic reported the dredging has been completed at Smith Point and we're doing the final grading in front of the pavilion. At Cupsogue, the ocean beach nourishment and grading were completed. There are still a few other things that need to be done during the course of the year.

Agreement Between the Parks Department and the Nature Conservancy

The Commissioner reported that at their last meeting the Parks Committee authorized an agreement between the Parks Department and the Nature Conservancy to cooperate on future ecological management projects.

Shirley/Mastic Community Fireworks/Carnival Event

The Commissioner reported that after a number of issues were raised, i.e. public safety and the significant inability to be able to safely evacuate folks quickly, the community has decided not to go forward with the event. We are looking to see if we can still do something to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Smith Point.

Top Cop Award

Greg Sandbichler, one of our Park Police Officers, won the "Top Cop" award for the most DWI arrests.

Visit to Arthur Kunz Preserve

The Commissioner thanked Trustee Miles Borden for joining him and Nick on their recent trip to the Arthur Kunz Preserve. His insight and knowledge of the preserve was appreciated.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Cardillo mentioned that the resolution naming the fishing pier at Smith Point County Park after former Trustee, John Fritz, was passed yesterday at the Parks Committee meeting. Thank you to Legislator Vilorio-Fisher for sponsoring that bill and for all those who jumped on board. Legislator Schneiderman also spoke very highly of our former Trustee, John Fritz.

ROUND TABLE

Terry Maccarrone reported the work at the Smith Point Fishing Pier is moving along and it should be completed in approximately nine (9) months.

Trustee Engel reported I.R. 1104-2009 authorizing a dog park at Southaven County Park was approved by the Legislature but not yet signed by the County Executive. She asked that the Trustees offer their opinion on this issue.

Commissioner Pavacic reported that SPCA was looking for a home and it was determined that Southaven County Park, which has a stable, would be a good fit. We've indicated that we would be in favor of them using Southaven for their office space and also as a rescue area for animals, which would include horses. We're moving towards an agreement with SPCA to use that space. Legislator Browning introduced a resolution several weeks thereafter (I.R. 1104-2009), so we now have a conflict. This proposed resolution also talks about using an adjacent area that is presently used for overflow parking at Southaven. Southaven has increasingly been used for fund raising events approved by the Legislature and the overflow parking is critical for those large scale events. This resolution would impede our ability to be able to house these events at Southaven. We are not in favor of this particular area being used for a dog park and also feel the Parks Department is in the best position to determine the best location for a dog park. We've been working diligently with L.I. Dog to find suitable sites and have identified those sites.

We met with L.I. Dog at other locations and would prefer a dog run not be placed in this particular location. You're talking about formalized fencing, a cost being imposed on us that we had not expected to incur. Water lines would have to run into the area at a significant cost. It is also in the Central Pine Barrens Core. It would be a new use and may require the approval of the Pine Barrens Commission which would not look upon this favorably. It would also have to be approved by the DEC. These are all concerns we have about this location. We are looking at alternative sites close to Southaven. We have looked right down the road at Robinson Duck Farm for a natural borders dog park. We have met with L.I. Dog and Legislator Browning regarding the location of a dog park at Robinson Duck Farm. I think there was a meeting of the minds that if we do this as a pilot program, with certain conditions, it might be able to move forward.

A motion to disapprove IR 1104-2009 authorizing the Department of Parks to plan, design and construct a dog park at Southaven County Park, as well as a motion to make it known that it is the desire of the Parks Board of Trustees to have the Commissioner of Parks determine suitable locations for dog parks in Suffolk County in accordance with Legislative Resolution No. 471-7007, was made by Trustee Walters and seconded by Trustee Hilary. The motion was passed by a vote of 7-1-1. Trustee Schilling voted against this motion and Trustee Corwin abstained.

Miles Borden thanked the Commissioner and Nick Gibbons for inviting him along on their walk through the Arthur Kunz Preserve.

Trustee Hilary asked if we could move the tee forward on the 9th hole at Bergen Point Golf Course as suggested by Mr. Brady. Deputy Commissioner Bellone responded it would lower the rating of the golf course and the golf pro may not have agreed to the contract if there was a lower rating.

Trustee White asked about the status of the boardwalk at Cupsogue. Terry Maccarrone responded there were internal discussions and we are giving DPW a deadline of two (2) weeks to get the elevations over to Nick Gibbons. If it's not done within the two (2) weeks, we will combine the elevations, permits and design into an RFP.

Terry Maccarrone reported the contracts for the maintenance building at the GATR site went out to four (4) prime contractors. The responses (including the bonding) are due in six (6) weeks. Parks will decide at the end of April whether the cabins in Montauk will be used for housing.

Lauretta Fischer said the Blydenburgh Master Plan was done in-house many years ago by the Planning Department. The Planning Department is no longer involved with master plans.

Lauretta Fischer reported nature preserves are required to have plan completion before nature preserve designation can be made.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 16th at the Maritime Museum in West Sayville.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee Engel. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 9-0-0.